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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,670	11/24/2003	Yoshihiko Sugawara	01-520	1631

23400 7590 06/17/2005

POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC
 12040 SOUTH LAKES DRIVE
 SUITE 101
 RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CUONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3661

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/718,670	Applicant(s) SUGAWARA, YOSHIHIKO	
	Examiner CUONG H. NGUYEN	Art Unit 3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the communication received on 11/24/2003.
2. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of a receipt of the certified copy for JPO 2003-4328 filed on 1/10/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this action

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynn Woods "Getting there via computer – computerized mapping software..."

A. As for claims 1, 7: Woods discloses that pending claimed functions are fundamental to MapQuest software (i.e., inherent functions are performed by a CPU and a store database when searching with MapQuest.com).

Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system and a method using map data, comprising:

- a selecting unit for selecting an item that is used for retrieving an on-map position that is a position on the map data (see Lynn Woods' article, page 1 lines 5, and 25 – a capability to pinpoint a location on a detailed map);

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- an information storing unit for storing a plurality of wherein a given search information plurality of search retrieving an on-map position that is related search information items, item is related to a given search area of a areas and used for to the given search information item within the given search area (i.e., point of interest or street names .etc., see Lynn Woods's article, page 3 line 11, and page 2 lines 26-31);

- a retrieving unit for retrieving, within a targeted search area of the search areas, an on-map position corresponding to the selected item by collating the selected item with search information items related to the targeted search area;

an area-designating information storing unit for storing a plurality of area-designating information items, wherein an area-designating information item is related to one of the search areas (this claimed retrieving unit is a capable function of MapQuest.com software - see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33);

- a determining unit for determining whether the selected item corresponds to any one of the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, a CPU that runs MapQuest.com software, page 3 line 11); and

Lynn Woods does not expressly disclose about an area-designating unit for designating a certain search area as the target area, when the selected item is determined to include a certain search area.

However, Lynn Woods suggests about an I/O device, and a microprocessor (to designate a certain area, where an item is input/determined as a certain search area, (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33).

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It would have been obvious with one ordinary skill in the art for implement Lynn Woods' idea to include a unit for designating a certain search area as the target area (e.g., a search area of Springfield is given in Illinois or in Connecticut, or in Northern Virginia; a user has to narrow-down his search by combination of "Springfield" in "Northern Virginia" to define a target area for the benefit of obtaining a closer result.

B. As for claims 2-3: Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising an area-designating information storing unit stores the area-designating information items that include words indicating areas included in the respective search areas; an address-book storing unit for storing a plurality of address-book information items, each of which at least includes a name indicating a facility that is present in a given position and an address information item of the given position, wherein the selecting unit selects the item that is a given address-book information item of the address-book information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 19-22), and wherein the determining unit "links"/collates the address information item included in the given address-book information item with the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 lines 26, 40, and 47).

D. As for claim 4: Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) wherein an area designating unit includes an updating/a notifying unit for updating/notifying an effect that the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area when the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area (see Lynn Woods's article, page 1 lines 18, and 28).

E. As for claim 5: Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising a selection unit for change/select/switch a certain search area as the targeted

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search area by switching from a previous search area into the certain search area, the area designating unit switches back from the certain search area into the previous search area as the targeted search area after completing retrieving within the certain search area – i.e., Woods teaches to narrow-down a “local” mapping area with “PANNING IN” functions.

F. As for claim 6: Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising:

- a pre-determining unit for determining whether the selected item corresponds to any one of the area-designating information items that are related to the target search area (see Lynn Woods’s article, page 2 line 33), wherein when the pre-determining unit determines that the selected item does not correspond to an area-designating information items that are related to the target search area, the determining unit then determines whether the selected item corresponds to a area-designating information items (please note that the above, “determining” function is a capability of MapQuest.com when NOT finding the exact MATCH).

It would have been obvious with one ordinary skill in the art to implement Lynn Woods for dividing the total available search area into multiple search area according to their attributes for the benefit of using information of designated area when a selected item includes certain area-designating information system not using a default search area.

Response to Amendment

5. The examiner respectfully submits original claims cover the same meanings and concept for a map search system as the currently amended claims. The original reference and rationales are applied again for obviousness.

Conclusion

6. Claims 1-7 are not patentable. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:15 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the

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organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
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